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**Request for
Continued Examination (RCE)
Transmittal**

Address to:
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| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Application Number | 09/646,665 |
| Filing Date | November 27, 2000 |
| First Named Inventor | Masaaki HIGASHIDA et al. |
| Art Unit | 2616 |
| Examiner Name | Donald L. Mills |
| Attorney Docket No. | MAT-8014US |

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

- a. Previously submitted. If a final Office Action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office Action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
 - i. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on ____.
 - ii. Other ____.
- b. Enclosed
 - i. Preliminary Amendment/Reply
 - ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
 - iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - iv. Other ____.

2. **Miscellaneous**

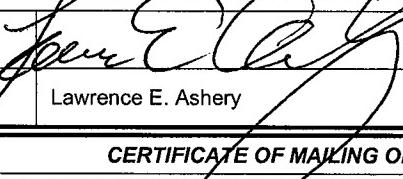
- a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of ____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)
- b. Other ____.

3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 18-0350. I have enclosed a duplicate copy of this sheet.
 - i. RCE fee (\$810.00) required under 37 CFR 1.17(e).
 - ii. Extension of Time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17).
 - iii. Other ____.
- b. Check in the amount of \$ ____ is enclosed.
- c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

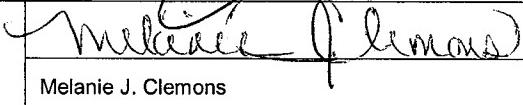
WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Signature |  | Date | October 31, 2007 |
| Name (Print/Type) | Lawrence E. Ashery | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) | 34,515 |

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited electronically to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|------|------------------|
| Signature |  | Date | October 31, 2007 |
| Name (Print/Type) | Melanie J. Clemons | Date | October 31, 2007 |

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. This information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.